

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 14, line 2, please amend the paragraph there to read:

The substantially continuous bicomponent filaments contain at least two thermoplastic polymers. The substantially continuous bicomponent filaments contain at least a first, or “A,” polymer which melts or softens before the second, or “B,” polymer. For ease of explanation the first polymer will be referred to hereinafter as the sheath polymer, and the second polymer will be referred to as the core polymer, although it will be understood that the filaments need not be sheath-core configuration according to some aspects of the present invention, but need only have the first polymer constitute at least a portion of the surface of the filament. The sheath polymer may contribute one or more desirable properties beyond its low melting point and wettability of the absorbents in its liquid state. For example, polar functional groups may be added to the sheath polymer to aid in the attachment of the absorbent fibers thereto. Some examples of polymers with suitable polar functional groups are maleic anhydride modified polyethylene such as EPOLENE C-16, from Uniroyal Chemical of Middlebury, CT and polypropylene such as Exxelor PO1020, from ExxonMobil Chemical of Houston, TX. Polymers may also be provided in the sheath which have high wettability for liquid water distribution within the web.